

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00689 302026Z

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TAGS:

SUBJ: SECRETARY-GENERAL OF SPANISH POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY
INTERVIEW

REF: (A) LISBON 0608 (DTG 281724Z JAN 76)

(B) LISBON 0560 (DTG 270924Z JAN 76)

SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW WITH EDITOR BALSEMAO IN JAN 27 EDITION
OF LEADING WEEKLY "ESPRESSO", SPANISH POPULAR SOCIALIST
PARTY (PSP) LEADER RUAL MORODO NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE
HAS BEEN NO REAL POLITICAL CHANGE IN SPAIN, CURRENT CLIMATE
OF GREATER TRANQUILITY OFFERS HOPE OF EFFECTIVE CHANGE IN
SHORT TERM. THE PSP IS WORKING TOWARD CREATION OF A SINGLE
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PAGE 02 LISBON 00689 302026Z

SOCIALIST CONFEDERATION WHICH WOULD INCLUDE BOTH JUNTA

DEMOCRATICA AND PLATFORM OF DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE MEMBERS. THE SPANISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PSOE) WOULD BE WELCOME IN NEW ORGANIZATION. THIS IS THIRD REPORT ON INTERVIEWS RECENTLY CONDUCTED BY BALSEMAO DURING VISIT TO SPAIN (REFTELS). END SUMMARY.

SUMMARY OF MORODO'S COMMENTS FOLLOWS:

1. HAS THERE BEEN CHANGE?

THERE HAS BEEN A RELAXATION OF TENSION IN SPAIN BUT NO REAL POLITICAL CHANGE; NEITHER INSTITUTIONS NOR PEOPLE IN CHARGE HAVE CHANGED. BUT THERE HAS BEEN A CLIMATE OF GREATER TRANQUILITY WHICH PERMITS CONFIDENCE IN THE POSSIBILITY, IN THE SHORT RUN, OF EFFECTIVE CHANGE.

2. ROLE OF FRAGA AND AREILZA:

INTERIOR MINISTER FRAGA AND FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA ARE BEHIND THE RELAXATION OF TENSIONS. OTHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT ARE MERE TECHNOCRATS WITHOUT A POLITICAL PROGRAM OF THEIR OWN. FRAGA CONTROLS THE GOVERNMENT. BOTH HE AND AREILZA HAVE THE LONG-TERM GOAL OF CREATING A LIBERAL CONSERVATIVE PARTY, SIMILAR TO THE UDR IN FRANCE. BUT THERE ARE LIMITATIONS ON THE FREEDOM OF ACTION OF BOTH MEN; WHAT THEY WANT IS "CONTROLLED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE." BUT THIS IS A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS IN THE SPANISH CONTEXT GIVEN THE INSTITUTIONAL RIGIDITIES BUILT INTO THE SYSTEM OVER THE YEARS.

3. THE ARMY AND THE KING:

UNLIKE THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY, THE SPANISH ARMED FORCES ARE NOT POLITICALLY AWARE. THE MAJORITY OF THE ARMED FORCES KNOWS THAT SPAIN'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS MUST BE RESOLVED BY CIVILIANS AND THAT ITS PROPER ROLE IS MORE ONE OF VIGILANCE THAN OF DIRECT PARTICIPATION. THE ATTITUDES AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF JUAN CARLOS HAVE UNTIL NOW BEEN VERY HELPFUL. HE HAS NOT PUBLICLY SUPPORTED THE ULTRA-RIGHT, BUT NEITHER HAS HE COME OUT IN A DEMOCRATIC MANNER. HE ONLY HAS THE LEGITIMACY CONFERRED BY THE SYSTEM;

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PAGE 03 LISBON 00689 302026Z

IF D. JOAO DE BORBON WERE TO ABDICATE, JUAN CARLOS WOULD ALSO HAVE HISTORICAL LEGITIMACY. WHAT HE STILL LACKS IS DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY. SPANIARDS ARE NEITHER MONARCHISTS NOR VERY REPUBLICAN. THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, IS LESS IMPORTANT THAN THAT IT IS DEMOCRATIC. WHAT IS REQUIRED IS A GRADUAL CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS WHICH WOULD INCLUDE, IN ADDITION TO AMNESTY, THE RECOGNITION OF PUBLIC LIBERTIES AND GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

4. PCE AND THE JUNTA:

THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) RESEMBLES THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY; IT HAS FEW SIMILARITIES WITH THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY OR EVEN WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF FRANCE OR USSR. THE PCE HAS ALREADY DECLARED ITSELF IN FAVOR OF "DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM." THIS IS WHAT LED PSP TO JOIN WITH THE PCE AND "OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES" TO FORM THE JUNTA DEMOCRATICA; THE JUNTA IS NEITHER AN ELECTORAL PACT NOR A UNION OF THE LEFT, BUT MERELY AN ANTI-FASCIST UNDERSTANDING. THIS UNDERSTANDING WILL LAST UNTIL DEMOCRACY EXISTS IN SPAIN. MORODO NOTED THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY NOT IN FAVOR OF AN ELECTORAL COALITION WITH THE COMMUNISTS. ALL PARTIES, BECAUSE OF THEIR ILLEGAL STATUS, ARE SUBJECT TO LEGAL ACTION AT THE GOVERNMENT'S WHIM. BUT PERSONS MUST USE THE LIBERTY AVAILABLE TO FIGHT FOR GREATER LIBERTY FOR ALL.

5. PSP-PSOE RELATIONS:

IN PAST, THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO THE SPANISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PSOE) OVER THE PSP. THE PSOE RECEIVED ADVANTAGES NOT BECAUSE IT WAS MORE TO THE RIGHT BUT BECAUSE IT DID NOT ASSOCIATE WITH THE COMMUNISTS. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PSP AND THE PSOE ARE BOTH TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC. THEY ARE A LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE OF ALMOST 40 YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP. THE PSOE WAS ALWAYS A "CENTRIST" PARTY. IT IS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTORS: THE "TRADITIONAL" AND THE "RENOVATED." THE PSP ON THE OTHER HAND, IS A MORE MODERN PARTY; IT IS MORE "FEDERALIST" THAN "CENTRIST." RESPONSIBLE SECTORS REALIZE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SINGLE SOCIALIST PARTY. THE PSP AND SEVEN REGIONAL GROUPS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 LISBON 00689 302026Z

ARE WORKING TOWARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SOCIALIST CONFEDERATION. CONFEDERATION WOULD INCLUDE GROUPS FROM BOTH THE JUNTA DEMOCRATA AND THE PLATFORM OF DEMOCRATIC CONVERGENCE AS WELL AS THOSE IN NEITHER GROUPING. GOAL IS UNIFIED NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, WHICH WOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE PSOE.

6. PORTUGAL:

THE CONTRADICTIONS WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION AND THE "STALINIST" ATTITUDE OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY HAVE CREATED ADVANTAGES FOR THE RIGHT IN SPAIN. PORTUGUESE EVENTS HAVE NEVERTHELESS BEEN A POSITIVE FORCE FOR THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE IBERIAN PENINSULA.
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